

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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**Editor's Note:** The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at <http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html>.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, August 31, 2001

**The President's Radio Address**

*August 25, 2001*

Good morning. Congress will shortly return to Washington to make its final spending decisions for 2002. A new budget report released this past week shows that despite the economic slowdown that began in the third quarter of last year, the Federal budget is strong, healthy, and in balance. In fact, the 2002 budget surplus will be the second biggest surplus in American history.

The report also shows we are funding our Nation's priorities, meeting our commitments to Social Security and Medicare, reducing taxes, and still retiring record amounts of debt. This is a great achievement, and it happened because Congress worked with me this spring to agree to a responsible total level of spending.

Congress also worked with me to cut income taxes for the first time in a generation, the right policy at exactly the right time to boost our sagging economy. The faster our economy grows, the stronger the Federal budget will be.

The greatest threat to our budget outlook is the danger that Congress will be tempted this fall to break its earlier commitments by spending too much. The old way in Washington is to believe that the more you spend, the more you care. What mattered was the size of the line in the budget, not the effect of that line on real people's lives. My administration takes a new approach. We want to spend your hard-earned money as carefully as you do. And when we spend the people's money, we insist on results.

Today my Office of Management and Budget is releasing a report identifying 14 long-neglected management problems in the Federal Government and offering specific solutions to fix them. For example, the United States Government is the world's single largest purchaser of computers and other technologies for gathering and using infor-

mation. In 2002 we will spend \$45 billion on information technology. That's more than we've budgeted for highways and roads. Yet so far, and unlike private sector companies, this large investment has not cut the Government's cost or improved people's lives in any way we can measure.

Another example: The General Accounting Office has, year after year, found that the Federal student aid programs are run in ways that make them vulnerable to fraud and waste. And year after year, virtually nothing has been done to make sure that Federal aid intended for needy students goes only to the needy.

With the help of congressional leaders like Senator Fred Thompson, we are going to take on these problems, and others like them, with a focused, targeted reform agenda. We'll introduce greater competition into Government and make Government more attentive to citizens.

Americans demand top-quality service from the private sector. They should get the same top-quality service from their Government. I've asked Cabinet Secretaries and agency heads to name a chief operating officer who will be held accountable for the performance of that agency. These officers will make up the President's Management Council, to build a leadership team that listens, learns, and innovates.

Taxpayers work hard to earn the money they send the Government. Government should work equally hard to ensure that the money is spent wisely. I will work with Congress to build a Government that is responsive to the people's needs and responsible with our people's money.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:03 p.m. on August 23 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the

Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Bush Ranch in Crawford, Texas

August 25, 2001

#### Ranch Tour

**Q.** Shouldn't you be doing that with an axe?

**The President.** I've got my earplugs in.

**Q.** Oh, lucky.

**The President.** What?

**Q.** I was just asking, shouldn't you be doing that with an axe?

**The President.** No, that was Abraham Lincoln.

**Q.** My mistake.

**The President.** I'll tell you what we ought to do. What we're doing is, we're cleaning this out. We're making a trail from the top to come down, over here. Do you all want to walk in here? It's kind of neat in here. These cliffs are pretty unusual from this perspective. And then—this is a very long canyon. I'll take you down, if you want to see where the mouth of the canyon is, and the trail was cut up in here. And then I've got another canyon, right next door, if you'd like to see that, that we've improved. It will give you a flavor for the ranch.

But what we're trying to do is to make these really beautiful cutouts available for anybody who wants to walk up in here. I think you'll see that we make them pretty accessible without disturbing the natural beauty of the place.

If you want the details, that was a dead hackberry. H-a-c-k—[*Laughter*]

**Q.** He's writing it down.

**The President.** Anyway, what will happen is, is that when the rainy season comes—this all gets damp in here—we'll fire up this pile of leaves and stuff and burn it. This canyon—you can see, behind you, all the erosion—this gets a lot of water coming through here. There's seven of these on the ranch, and when it rains, these all flow down toward the bottoms. Eventually, in this case, these canyons feed into the middle fork of the Bosque River. The guy from A&M we had out here,

he spotted about 17 or 18 different variety of hardwood down below.

So what do you want to do?

**Q.** Come down.

**The President.** Come on down here, or do you want to start from the bottom and walk up? We'll start from the bottom and walk up. I've got room for five people. We'll get the scribblers, AP and Reuters.

**Q.** Thank you.

[*At this point, the tour continued. When the transcript resumed, the President's remarks were joined in progress.*]

**The President.** —just use the cedar that we cut. Used a crowbar to dig the hole. We'll put another one below and then make sure the steps are—I've got a little more work. Do you see those two? Those are dead right there. Those are ash. Do you see the two trees there, the dead trees? I'll cut them out.

And so basically, what we've been doing in here, is we've been cutting out the dead trees, the trees that have fallen down, and some undergrowth, just to open it up, so that when you sit out here for a picnic, you've got a pretty good view of this beautiful canyon.

**Q.** Are you trying to make a hiking trail for people to use?

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** Now would the doctor and the nurse both normally be here, or is it the chainsaw that brought them out?

**The President.** No, they're with me—like when I ran this morning, they were here. They go everywhere I go on the ranch.

**Q.** Not that they don't trust you with a chainsaw, huh?

**The President.** Well, they don't trust me with my running, either. [*Laughter*]

**Q.** Won't the rain erode the trail? How do you stop that?

**The President.** Pardon me?

**Q.** The rain—won't the water erode the trail? Do you have to keep redoing it?

**The President.** No, actually we're not going to put it on the creek bottom. You'll see, there's a series of flats, as you come up the canyon. The canyon is not uniformly steep. And so there will be—one side of the canyon will be steep, and the other side will

be relatively flat. We've cut out a trail, mainly cedars. Cedars are a—you know, some of the big stands of cedars are important, because they become nesting materials for things like the golden-cheeked warbler, although we don't have any on this property.

On the other hand, the little cedars, they crowd up on these beautiful hardwood, and they soak in a lot of water. I mean, they take 30 percent of the water, more or less, that is taken in by these trees, are taken in by cedar. And cedar is just a plague of a lot of places around Texas.

**Q.** What did you mean when you said you burn it?

**The President.** It means, we take a match—

**Q.** I know that, but isn't there a risk of spreading fire?

**The President.** No, in the rainy season, the wet season.

**Q.** In the rainy season. I see.

**The President.** Right now you can't burn because there's a burn ban. And obviously, we'll honor the burn ban.

[*The tour continued.*]

**The President.** The thing about this—this is kind of a transition zone. And see how close the rock is to the surface here? This is basement rock. And as you come from the southwest part of the ranch, where you come in, this way, the soil obviously thins. And so it goes from pretty good hay country and crop country—there's a corn field right next to our neighbor's pasture. The property is only good for grazing, and it's pretty thin at that. But because the rock is so close to the surface, it enabled—there was a series of eroding activities that caused these canyons. And there's about 3½ miles of lowland. You drop off about 90 foot from here down to where we're going.

And so it's a whole other world that you—the closest thing you can tell about this ranch, when you drive in here is—you know that dip when you're coming in, what they call Bluff Creek? Have you seen the cliffs?

**Q.** When you bought this property, and you saw that land, did you decide that you wanted to turn those all into hiking trails?

**The President.** Oh, yes. Look, this place has got so much variety on it, and it is a

unique piece of property for Texas. You'll see the trees down here. They're really big and magnificent trees. I mean, I fell in love with it the minute I saw it. But I also knew I was going to have to—get to do a lot of work, not have to. I really like this. I like being out here. I like spending a lot of time outside.

**Q.** Have you been doing this every day, working on this trail?

**The President.** No, not every day. Like, I didn't yesterday. The military folks didn't leave until about 5 p.m. yesterday.

**Q.** You could have handed them a chainsaw and asked them to help.

**The President.** Exactly. Let me take you up to this one finished product first. I think you'll find this interesting.

**Q.** How far away from your house?

**The President.** We're about a mile—this is the—not necessarily as the crow flies, but this is the 3-mile marker on a rut of mine, right up here. But I—you had to have gone in kind of a—

**Q.** Meander around?

**The President.** Yes, meander around a little bit.

This is the beginning of a very long pasture that—I say long—it's two-thirds of a mile. But just to give you a feel for it, these cedar elms, interspersed with pecan and different types of oaks—you see the size of the cedar elms up there? And you can see that the pasture's been well maintained over time, and it goes for a long way. I think this is a—

**Q.** So do you have livestock grazing out here?

**The President.** Yes, we do, sure do. I don't own it, but the guy—Ken Engelbrecht does. This is a bur oak. This is a very rare—not rare, it's just a beautiful oak tree, this thing right here, and it produces these magnificent burs. This is a live oak here.

**Q.** So the horticulturist has already been out here?

**The President.** Yes, we had a—Thursday, two guys from A&M came out, and we had a really good visit. By the way, there was another pasture beyond there that really is pretty.

This is what we call the cathedral. This is where—hey, look, average campers. [Laughter]

**Q.** What do you know?

**The President.** I'm interested in these trees. This place, you learn to fall in love with trees.

[*The tour continued.*]

**The President.** I tell you—this is the area we call the cathedral. The only thing I suggest, the camera dogs, look for three-leaved plants and avoid them.

**Q.** Poison ivy?

**The President.** It's called poison ivy.

So I'd finished a long run one day. It was pretty wet, and I started walking up. And I heard this trickle, sound of running water. And it turns out this is a waterfall when it rains. And it pools—the water pools right—you're welcome to walk up there.

Anyway, be careful of poison ivy if you have shorts on.

**Q.** What about snakes?

**The President.** You're okay for snakes. Avoid this plant right here. Like you.

**Q.** I'm not allergic.

**The President.** You're not? Then you're in good shape.

Where are my writers? Oh, there you are.

**Q.** We got run over.

**The President.** You can come in here.

Anyway, this fills up with water when it's raining. So this comes over here, trickles there, fills up water, so you've got a nice little pool. Eventually it fills up, and it starts moving down, and it makes a nice little stream. I've seen fox in here. I've seen all kinds of birds. It's a wonderful spot to come up in here and just kind of think about the budget. [*Laughter*] I mean—

**Q.** I thought you'd rather think about that with the chainsaw.

**The President.** That's exactly right. Very good, Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters]. I wish I'd thought of that.

There are seven canyons like this. You've seen two of them. This obviously is a more shallow canyon, but it's very dramatic when you get to the end. And then the one that you were seeing there, it's a wonderful picnic spot because it's got a natural amphitheater to it. Then if you'd like, I can walk you up, to just give you a feel for what one of these long canyons is like. We've cut a little trail up in there. The walking's a little difficult

because we haven't had a chance to burn the piles that we've cut.

This is an amazing place in here.

**Q.** So what do you do? You come out here, and—

**The President.** I've come out here—you know, I come out here some. And you know, you don't want to get out here from about right now until about 4 p.m., because—

**Q.** It's so hot, yes.

**The President.** It's like an oven.

**Q.** So in the morning, you'll get up—

**The President.** We'll get up early. Today the sunrise was magnificent.

**Q.** So you'll come and watch the sunrise?

**The President.** Well, we walked—actually, this morning I ran 3½ miles, and walked. And then Laura and Condi Rice and two of our house guests, they walked 4½. It was just magnificent. Started about 7 this morning.

I'll work out here until around noon. We've got three couples as house guests. Beth, the barber from Austin, is coming out. She'll want to see this place. So I'll give her a tour. I want to look good for the Little League World Series tomorrow—the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

### **Little League**

**Q.** Oh, that's right.

**Q.** What were your stats?

**The President.** You know, I'd better not give them to you, because somebody will dig them out and find that it wasn't accurate. I was a pretty good player. I was a catcher on the Cubs, the Midland Cubs. As I said, I peaked in Little League.

**Q.** Were you Hall of Fame quality?

**The President.** Little League? Well, I qualified by the fact that I was the first President ever to play Little League baseball. I think that's—you know, first guy to hit 60 home runs, first guy to actually put the uniform on. What the heck? What's the difference?

[*The tour continued.*]

### **Ranch Tour**

**Q.** So how many hours a day are you out here?

**The President.** About 3. But I've had the full day already. I got up at 5:45 a.m., read

all the stuff I needed to read, and then took off at about 7 a.m. with a little run, got back to the house about 7:45 a.m., and we had a CIA briefing for an hour and a national security briefing. Both of them took an hour. Then we came down here and started working. And this will be it. Probably finish about 12:15 p.m. or so.

**Q.** So, you're so in your element here. Are you dreading going back to Washington?

**The President.** No. Life is a series of contrasts. And I like it here a lot. I really do. And I am in my element here. We really like it. But I also like—I wouldn't have run for President if I didn't like the challenge and the give and take and the sense of accomplishment. Plus, we like living in the White House. It's a nice place to live, as they say in Crawford.

**Q.** I know, but I think when people see you out here, who haven't been to the ranch before—a lot of us haven't—now we sort of get it.

**The President.** Get a feel for it, yes.

**Q.** I mean, get why you guys come down here so much.

**The President.** Well, it's our home, and we love it here. You know, I'll come back—Vladimir Putin's coming out here, so I'll be back relatively quickly. I've got a lot of work to do in Washington. I'm looking forward to going back. I've just got a lot to do. As a matter of fact, I'll be at my desk on Friday, presuming they've got the White House—the Oval Office refurbish completed.

[*The tour continued.*]

### Hunting

**Q.** Now, do you go hunting on the ranch?

**The President.** I don't. I don't hunt deer, but I do hunt dove. And I have hunted dove. We don't have any quail. And I don't want to shoot the turkeys. I like turkeys. But we let people come and thin out the deer. A ranch can overpopulate with deer. All right, we're moving.

This is the mouth of the canyon, where you all were, up top.

[*The tour continued.*]

### Ranch Tour

**The President.** We're trying to keep people out of the riverbed—out of the creekbed,

so if there's water here, there's a trail. And where it gets—where the crossings are relatively deep, we'll build a kind of bridge.

Anyway, you can kind of get a feel. These little cleared-out areas now, they'll be full of windflowers in the spring. And the greens will come out. This place was emerald green in the spring. I mean, it's hard to envision, and you probably think I'm exaggerating, but we had enough rain to really green this place up. It was spectacular.

And these canyons will be full of flowers. And some of these trees are flowering trees. The whole purpose is to make it accessible. What we just walked across would not have been accessible, unless you wanted to cut your arms up on the brambles, that are—like these things. There's a bunch of them around here that—so the idea is to smooth it out. Cut it out first, like we've done, and then burn it. And then we'll come out here, and where it's needed, we'll kind of try to smooth it up. Probably drive some Gators up in there, which are these John Deere, Jeep-looking things, to try to make the path easier. But even though it's hot, at least you're not having to cut through a bunch of brush to get up in here. Anyway, we can keep going, if you like.

**Q.** How long did it take you to clear this whole area out?

**The President.** It took us about 5 days. We're not through yet, either. See these things? These are the things you've got to be real careful about. And we need to get rid of those. They make it hard for people to—you can see, like in here, these were all cedar, young cedars. Not only do they take the water away from these trees, but they made it impossible—and these thorns grow up in them, and so it makes it kind of jungly.

This area here—we're going to drive up in here, be able to drive these things up here. We'll clear it out and probably build a little bridge across here, big enough for a John Deere Gator.

We can keep going if you want. I mean, we've got a little ways to go. This will give you a feel for what it's like. It's up to you all.

**Q.** Sure.

**Q.** Yes, we'd like to.

**The President.** Good with me.

The other thing is, in the winter, a lot of times of the year, winter and early spring, you can imagine this is beautiful. And see these cliffs in here? So this is like you're in a bowl. This side is a little more gentle. This side's a little more steep, here. The base of the cliff—the cliffs are really beautiful, aren't they?

These are where the Indians came up. They would come up—the Tonkawa Indians would bring their horses up the middle fork of the Bosque, and they would run them up a canyon like this. And you can see where we were, at the end of the canyon. And it's a pretty sheltered area. If there's any water, there would be pools of water in there. But this is where they supposedly ran their horses.

**Q.** And this will all be a running creek in the spring?

**The President.** Yes, when it rains. It's beautiful.

**Q.** When do you expect—I mean, what months does it start filling up?

**The President.** Well, we don't know. I'll drive you out of here and show you one other part of the ranch. We've got a mile and a half of Rainey Creek. It's a much bigger creek. It's still got some pools of water in there.

[*The tour continued.*]

**The President.** All right, this is—see where we are?

**Q.** Is this coming up on the cathedral, on another angle?

**The President.** That's where you all were standing, up top.

**Q.** Oh, the first one?

**The President.** Yes. This is fairly typical of what this place could look like, if we didn't make it easier to—we cut some of this out, and we already stacked it. But that's where you all were standing, up there.

And the idea is to be able to walk up from the bottom or get down from the top. It's a beautiful—area. But this is also to make it easy for people to walk through here. It's kind of fun, I figure, a place for people—if they want to get lost up here, they're welcome to do so. And I want these canyons to be accessible. There are a few others. One of them's really hard to get to. I hiked up

in there. I mean, it's really hard to get up in there. And I don't know if we can ever make that one really accessible.

The other one will be accessible only if we get in there with a chainsaw and spend a lot of time, because it's really overgrown. So we may leave one the way it is and make the other one—

**Q.** Think escalator. [*Laughter*]

**Q.** Are you able to hike around here on your own, totally on your own?

**The President.** No. I hike around up here. As you know, the—[*inaudible*].

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Plus, the military aide is within a certain distance of me at all times.

**Q.** So even on your own property, you can't get lost?

**The President.** Right. They stay—the military aide, the doc, and the nurse live on the property. And fortunately, they're such fine Americans, I don't mind hiking with them.

**Q.** How do they feel about it?

**The President.** That's something you need to ask them. That's a good question.

**Q.** What is it you like about coming out here?

**The President.** I like—I mean, it is one of the few places where I can actually walk outside my front door and say, "I think I'm going to go walk 2 hours." And although I'm not totally alone, I can walk wherever I want to walk, and I can't do that in Washington.

I guess I could, I could walk around the circle for—I do run the circle. I like that. I love the nature. I love to get in the pickup truck with my dogs as the sun is setting, go look for game.

**Q.** You're a pretty gregarious guy. I've seen you at many a ball game.

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** Some of your friends are surprised that you like to come out here, basically in the middle of nowhere, and just kind of be by yourself.

**The President.** I guess they don't know what it's like to be the President. [*Laughter*] I get plenty of quality time with a lot of really good people. Sometimes, it's important to just get away, as well.

Plus, you know, one of the things we miss in Washington is our friends. And they're



here. We've got the Weisses here. The Gammons are here. Pam Nelson is here. And we find it really relaxing to sit down on the porch with our buddies and just shoot the breeze. And you know, it's amazing; you don't have to defend any policy you make. I mean, your friends are your friends. These people were friends of mine before I became President; they'll be friends of mine after I'm the President. And people just take you for what you are.

**Q.** Do you do your own cooking here at the ranch?

**The President.** Do I?

**Q.** Yes.

**The President.** I try not to. *[Laughter]* I get really hungry after a day's work. Occasionally, I'll cook a burger or a steak. I'm not bad at it.

**Q.** Otherwise, Mrs. Bush takes care of that?

**The President.** Actually, we've got Sam, a fine cook. And that's one of the benefits of being the President, the cook comes with you. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** Noticed a lot of animal droppings. Can you identify them?

**The President.** Well, no. I can't. Good question, though.

**Q.** I'm a Brooklyn boy, and I don't—

**The President.** I'm better on trees than I am on animal droppings. And I still need a lot of work on trees. I think this is a cedar elm. Cedar elms are identified by their skirts. Obviously, when they grow up in a sunlight-starved environment, the skirt doesn't grow.

But it's pretty special. You know, the thing about this place is that you would never guess that this kind of country was here, driving in from Waco to Crawford. And the—this is really a finger of the hill country coming up in here. And you've got the hay country, the black land prairie, and you've got a transition zone—really, a lot of live oaks and stuff. And then you come down into these canyons. And the middle fork of the Bosque runs a mile-and-a-half on our eastern boundary, and Rainey Creek is a mile-and-a-half on the northern boundary. And they are really great when there's water in them. They're even great when there's no water in them. They're good for game, holding game. The game like

to go down in the bottoms there, and they'll drink and hang out and hide.

As I say, the other day, I came down here, and Barney and I were—Barney's legs are so short, a half-mile run for him is pretty much like 5 miles for a human. He makes it about a quarter-mile or so, then they put him in the Gator, and he and I walk as he cools down. Thirty turkey came sprinting across the pasture down there, and Barney took off after them.

Barney's big thing to do is to chase armadillo. And you know, Laura has mulched our flower beds around the house, and we water in the evening, so therefore the soil is very moist and armadillo love to dig the soil looking for bugs. And so I went out there the other day, and there was Barney buried in this hole, chasing an armadillo. *[Laughter]* Both of them were in this hole. At any rate, Barney—finally got him out of there, and the armadillo wouldn't move.

**Q.** Seems like Spot would be the more outdoorsy-type dog.

**The President.** Spot's a good runner. You know, Barney—terriers are bred to go into holes and pull out varmint. And Spotty chases birds. Spotty's a great water dog. I'll go fly-fishing this afternoon in our lake—I don't know if you saw the lake coming in. Yes.

It's—we sprung a leak in the dam, and a guy from east Texas came over and spent the last 4½ days coring out the dam, putting clay in there and filling it back in. I think we've solved the leak.

But I'll go fishing, and Spot will be out in the middle of the lake, either chasing the lure or chasing a grasshopper or chasing something. She loves the water. But she—you know, for a 12-year-old dog, she's in incredible condition. But she—about every other day, she'll run with me. And if she doesn't run with me, she'll either—she'll walk with Laura and me. So she's doing great. And she's a hunter. She's just having trouble seeing. She doesn't see as well as Barney does now.

**Q.** So when they're at the White House, where do they run around? I mean, outside—

**The President.** They run around the yard there. About 6:50 in the morning to 7, as I take them down, we'll walk around some.

And then Dale, the fine gardener, will come out. And Dale and the dogs are in love. And they will spend the day with Dale. And he'll hit the tennis ball to them. Or he'll walk around on the grounds, and they'll run around. And then when it gets a little hot, they'll camp out in the gardener's office. And then when I finish work, or when Laura is ready, we'll go down and get them and bring them up to the Residence.

**Q.** Do you still have the horses?

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** Does anyone ride them?

**The President.** No, they're too small yet. But we do have them. They're Kenneth Engelbrecht's.

Let's see what else I can tell you about this place?

**Q.** What's the average annual rainfall?

**The President.** I think it's 32 inches, but you need to look it up on the Internet.

**Q.** Is this summer especially dry?

**The President.** No. We got a half-inch. August is always dry. I mean, unless there's a hurricane, August is a dry month in Texas. And it's always hot; it's never not been hot. And Dallas—I don't know, Jackson [David Jackson, *Dallas Morning News*], you living in Dallas? It was some like ungodly number of days in a row of 100—50 days in a row or something.

This has been a relatively mild summer. But it had been really dry up until the last 3 years—last year. For 3 years prior to last year was really dry, and we didn't have any rain. And we had great rains this year. And the aquifers filled up, and it was seeping water all the time and the creek was running up until July. So it's—

#### **Future Visits to the Ranch**

**Q.** When are you coming back after—

**The President.** I don't know. I think we may have a scheduled trip in September. I'm giving a speech in San Antonio, if I'm not mistaken. And that will be just for a night. And I'm thinking about—I haven't decided when to hang my portrait in the State capitol, but it's finished. Or it's almost finished. One of the—the artist came out the other day just to get one final look. [Laughter] But I'm not sure how much time we'll spend then, and then Mr. Putin.

October is going to be taken up mainly with dealing with the Congress and going on the Far Eastern trip, about a 10-day trip.

**Q.** And then will you spend December, you know, around Christmas—

**The President.** No, we'll spend—look, the plans are right now, subject to change, that I would like to invite my entire family to Camp David, my mother and dad and brothers and sister and their kids. And then the day after, we'd fly down here and spend—

**Q.** For Christmas—at Camp David?

**The President.** No, no, the day—yes, Christmas at Camp David and then leave that day or the day after and come down here and stay down here until—I don't know—however long—whatever's appropriate.

**Q.** Sir, I don't want to be rude, but what does a ranch like this go for?

**The President.** You know, first of all, it's not for sale. You couldn't pay me enough.

**Q.** I believe that.

**The President.** Other than that, that's relatively rude.

**Q.** I apologize.

**The President.** No, no.

**Q.** Are you going to—are you going to bring Mr. Putin up through the canyons?

**The President.** I'd like to. If he wants to, you bet. He is a physical fitness person, and I bet he'd like to get up and go for a long walk.

**Q.** He's probably seen nothing like it.

**The President.** I'd love to show him the canyons. I will show him the canyons. And I think he'll like it out here. It will be a different look. The leaves—you get some colors down here. Some of the leaves—

**Q.** In the fall?

**The President.** Yes, you do. Nothing like New England, but you do get some colors.

**Q.** Do you know when he's coming, exactly?

**The President.** No, I don't. I'm not even sure, yet.

**Q.** You've done some work out here—

**The President.** I think he'd like to spend some time in Washington and do both, go to Washington and Crawford.

**President's Working Vacation**

**Q.** You've done some work out of here. Has it been more difficult to work out of here or—

**The President.** No, it's just the same. You know, when you pick up the phone and you call de la Rua to talk to him about Argentina, it's—it may be a different hookup, but it's the same voice.

Yesterday—as a matter of fact, in some ways, this place is better for work. Yesterday we spent—well, they arrived at 10 a.m. It took a while to get the press conference. We got back here at about 11:30 a.m. and met until—5:15 p.m., I think they left. That's the longest meeting I've had in a long time, on a very important subject. And so it gave us a chance to sit back and relax. It was a much less hectic schedule.

Therefore, we had a good chance to talk about a really important subject, which is our military strategies. And so in some ways, it lets—this place allows for more indepth discussions. Condi and I spend a lot of time just sitting around visiting about our foreign policy matters.

You know, Andy Card and I talked for a while yesterday. Josh is around. Karen Hughes was here. We spent a good deal of time with Karen talking about the fall and what we'll try to communicate in the fall.

I had a good visit with Vicente Fox on the phone. You know, we're working on immigration policy. And although I haven't been in the meetings, I have been in communications with—Margaret LaMontagne is heading up that task for us, and I think we'll make some pretty good progress there.

**Q.** When you have those business meetings, like the Joint Chiefs briefing, do you like to keep it separate from the living quarters on the ranch?

**The President.** Actually, you know, what we call the Governor's house, the place where you all came out during the—that's where we went. Condi and Karen Hughes stayed there. And right across the street from that is a—it's a nice looking government doublewide. [Laughter] And that's where the mil aide, the nurse, the WHCA head, the doc, they stay.

The CIA briefings I have on our porch, the end of our porch, looking out over the

lake. When Tenet came up, that's where we visited, out there.

You know, everybody wants to see the ranch, which I'm proud to show it off. So George Tenet and I—yesterday we piled in the new nominees for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Vice Chairman and their wives and went right up the canyon.

**Q.** They didn't do this hiking in those uniforms?

**The President.** No, no, they didn't come up here. It was a quick tour.

**Q.** The marine would, though. [Laughter]

**The President.** But for large meetings and, you know—plus Laura had some guests and didn't want us traipsing around there. So it was a good idea to invite the wives. Laura thought of it. And I'm really glad she did. It was obviously a very sensitive decision on her part. They were thrilled to be here. As you can imagine, their husbands were nominated to be Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and they got to witness it. And, had she not caught it, they might not have been here. So it's good that she did.

**Upcoming Budget Issues**

**Q.** So when you go back, you're going to be immersed in all this budget stuff. Are you ready for this fight?

**The President.** Sure. I don't necessarily see it as a fight.

**Q.** Well, you drew a pretty strong line in the sand yesterday.

**The President.** Well, we've got a budget, see. The budget's been decided. So we're not fighting over the budget. The decision is whether or not Congress will stick to the budget. We had the budget discussion last spring, and I was very pleased with the outcome of the budget discussion.

As you know, discretionary spending grew at about 5 percent. I thought the priorities were pretty clear in the budget. And so the discussion will be, do budgets mean anything? And so far, the folks in charge of appropriations have answered the question affirmatively; budgets do mean something. And the supplementals and the emergency measures were, you know, right in line, and I appreciate that very much. So we'll see. We'll see whether or not there's the commitment to make national defense a priority.

Members of both parties are saying, well, we need to spend more, this, that, and the other. And that's good. What I hope they do is, they decide that the budget I submitted or the request I submitted for '02 is the right number and that they let us know that that's the number they will fund early, so that we avoid a fight, because I will fight for education funding and a national defense funding that I think is at the appropriate level. But fight isn't the right word yet.

### **Return to Washington, DC**

**Q.** Are you sad that you have to leave here in about a week and go back?

**The President.** No, I'm not sad at all. I told Campbell [Campbell Brown, NBC News] life's a series of contrasts, and I will miss—I will miss Crawford, but I know I will be back here. And I think people have now got—are beginning to realize that this is our home, and I'm one of these guys that likes—I'm a homebody. I like my home. I like my own bedroom. I like hanging out with my family and friends here.

But I also know I can do my job from here, and I look forward to getting back to Washington and getting to work. I'll be all charged up. I think I'll have the right perspective. And you know, coming out here makes you realize that Washington is a wonderful place, but it's certainly not the center of all wisdom and knowledge. And there is a lot of wisdom in the folks of—you know, in the minds and souls of the folks of Crawford, Texas, just like there are amongst some of the elite in Washington.

### **Margaret LaMontagne**

**Q.** Did you say Margaret LaMontagne is heading up immigration?

**The President.** She is the chief domestic policy adviser who is—and since that's domestic policy, she is in charge of that aspect of the—of domestic policy, and doing a great job. I'm really glad Margaret came to Washington. She is newly wed, by the way—Austin wedding.

**Q.** But she is known mostly as an education person here in Texas. Is she branching out these days?

**The President.** No, she was branched out from day one, as you—David, I'm surprised

you didn't know that we made her—from the minute I got sworn in, she was the head of domestic policy, which means on every issue that has been in the domestic scene, she has been very much involved, whether it be Medicare reform or—she's doing a great job. Margaret is a very smart woman. You bet, she was an education person in Texas. But I realized how brilliant a woman she is, and she can handle just about every task we give her. So she's doing a good job. I've got a good team.

All right. Let's go.

**Q.** Thank you. Thank you very much.

**Q.** Thank you for having us out here.

**The President.** I'm thrilled you got to see it. It will help you understand.

**Q.** What you do out here all day?

**Q.** It was a real treat. Thank you.

**The President.** Thanks, I'm glad you came.

**Q.** There may be a story about Ms. LaMontagne appearing in the Dallas Morning News.

**The President.** Got it. Okay. I appreciate you asking.

Thank you, David.

**Q.** Thank you.

**The President.** I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be sarcastic. I thought you didn't know, seriously.

**Q.** I always like to play dumb, and it's an easy role for me to fill, too.

**The President.** No false modesty. [*Laughter*]

[*The tour continued.*]

### **Ranch Tour**

**The President.** I'm going to give you a little tour to get out of here, so everybody can see this. Whoa baby! I may be going in the "whining pool." [*Laughter*]

**Q.** Can we come?

**Q.** Can we all come?

**The President.** I must confess, it was a great addition.

**Q.** They won you over on that, didn't they?

**The President.** That's the canyon we went up, the top—obviously. And there's a series of roads out of this place. But I want you to see this in here. This is—this greens up really nicely.

In the evenings—you'll see some cliffs over here that really are—I think are really special. See them over there. I'll give you a better view up here.

I just want to practice driving. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** I've got to ask, who does your laundry? Because that's pretty filthy.

**The President.** Yes, it is.

**Q.** I can't imagine Mrs. Bush wants that stuff in her—

**The President.** Well, we've got a washer—the washer/dryer room is right off the porch. And so I'm not saying I strip down outside on the porch or anything, but I am saying I don't traipse this stuff into the house, either. *[Laughter]*

Maria Galvan is with us, as well. Maria is a—lived with us in Austin, and she lives with us in Washington.

**Q.** Have your parents been down? Or are they still sucking up the salt air up north?

**The President.** They haven't been down this summer.

**Q.** Are they coming?

**The President.** Mother and Dad have been here twice. Both times they were here, it was just green.

See these cedar elms? These are spectacular cedar elms. I'll show you another tree that I think is really special.

There's a whole stand of cedar elms. This is a pecan right here, lot of fruit on it.

In the evenings, this is where the deer lie down, in here. It's kind of tight, and they feel protected. These are called motts. When you see the same type of tree growing close together, it's called a mott, m-o-t-t.

**Q.** Is the red deer still here? The—

**The President.** Died.

**Q.** Oh, no! What—

**The President.** Ate Johnson grass, and the Johnson grass ended up poisoning it. Our neighbor to the north of us—I think it was our neighbor to the north—saw a bunch of buzzards circling and thought he lost one of his cows. He went up there, and the red stag was there.

This is the middle fork of the Bosque River we're coming up to now. We've been paralleling it. You'll get a sense of what it's like. It's a very gravelly-bottom river.

And we've got a beautiful bur oak stand in here. That's a bur oak, these great big oaks.

And we discovered what's a pretty rare tree, this tree right there, is a chinquapin oak, which is mainly found in the Houston area. I think it's the Houston area. It's not found here; it's more of an east Texas tree.

That's a bur oak. See that—

**Q.** Like Adam Burr?

**The President.** Yes. And that is the—

**Q.** Aaron Burr.

**The President.** Are you reading "Shining Brothers"? *[Laughter]* I am.

Anyway, see, that's the middle fork of the Bosque. That's our neighbor on the other side there.

**Q.** So this is the fence line of your property?

**The President.** Well, the middle—and there's some water pooled in there. Not much. It's pretty dry. But there are some places where the water has pooled up.

**Q.** How did you learn all this stuff about these trees? Did you have someone come out here and drive you around?

**The President.** Well, we've got a book. And I knew some of the trees, you know. The oak trees are pretty—the pecan trees, that's the Texas tree.

But we had a guy Thursday—two men Thursday that are professors at Texas A&M that Dianne White Delisi, who was a State rep and good friend of mine—you remember her, David—she is the State rep from Temple. Do you know her, David?

**Q.** Yes.

**The President.** She came out and brought them over here. They wanted to see the place. They had heard we had some beautiful hardwoods on it. And they came and were really pleased with the health of our trees and the quality of our trees.

That's the middle fork, and then it hits the Rainey Creek, which I'll show you up here.

### Hunting

**Q.** Do you know if you're planning to be out here for Thanksgiving?

**The President.** I'm not sure, Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

**Q.** Can those wild turkeys rest easy?

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** Have you been hunting them?

**The President.** No, I'm not going to hunt the turkeys.

**Q.** The pigeons? Do you hunt the pigeons?

**The President.** No, we don't have any pigeons—yes, the doves.

**Q.** The doves, I mean.

**The President.** Dove season is September 1st.

**Q.** Oh, it's not the season. Okay.

**The President.** I won't be here. Plus, we don't have that many doves yet. We usually don't get a lot of doves until there is a cold front pushing them south. I hunted last year up here.

**Q.** That was the day you grilled up the doves, right?

**The President.** Did what?

**Q.** The doves.

**The President.** With the bacon and the jalapeno?

**Q.** Yes, we had a bet.

**The President.** Did you eat them?

**Q.** I had a bet with an AP reporter that we couldn't get it on the wire.

**The President.** Did you get it on the wire?

**Q.** Oh, yeah.

### **Ranch Tour**

**The President.** The broad-leaf tree that was a little yellow there is a sycamore tree, which are pretty unusual, and they grow in the creeks.

See the size of these cedar elms here? They are magnificent trees.

**Q.** Quite the arborist—

**The President.** I am. Tree man.

**Q.** Tree man. [Laughter]

**Q.** Were you always a tree man?

**The President.** No, I wasn't. I like trees, but I have come to appreciate them a lot. And I'm guarding them jealously against water suckers like cedars.

Here's the creek, obviously now dry. But it will give you a sense of what it's like. And for most of the year this year, water was running over the crossing.

And again, the broad-leaf trees in the middle are the sycamores. That is an ash. That is a willow of some kind; see that in the middle there? And then you've got oaks and pecans. So you have four or five different types of trees along here. These are pecans. That's a sycamore, and that's a huge pecan tree.

**Q.** Do you get rattlesnakes on the property?

**The President.** I haven't seen any but have seen cottonmouths, which are poisonous water snakes. We found them in the creek. I actually had a man come up in here, into some of the canyons where we suspect there's rattlesnakes. And he's a rattlesnake hunter, and he's a local guy. And what they do is they come up and stake it and spray diesel fuel up in the hole and drug the snakes and extract them.

**Q.** For what?

**The President.** To get rid of them. And they use them to suck the venom—to milk them to get the venom as an antidote.

**Q.** Have any of your guests gotten poison ivy or snakebites or anything like that from walking around?

**The President.** Not yet.

**Q.** But you're hoping some day?

**The President.** I hope they're not.

**Q.** Just kidding.

**The President.** Put the doctor to use.

Here is one of our places that have held water.

**Q.** Oh, yes.

**The President.** We've got a couple of them on this place like this. And anyway, the creek goes for a while. And this will give you a sense of the cliffs up there. See up there?

This property—this part of the ranch goes another—the trail goes another three-quarters mile, and then we go another probably quarter mile beyond that, but there's no road. This will give you a sense of the cliffs right here. We own to the top of these cliffs.

**Q.** Wow! Look at the buzzards on the top.

**The President.** They're watching us.

**Q.** Guarding your border.

**The President.** Making sure. First the red stag and then—

**Q.** A few reporters?

**The President.** Yes. [Laughter]

**Q.** How many miles does this dirt road snake through here, do you know?

**The President.** David, I'm not even sure. I should measure them. I paid for them.

Here's another one of the canyons. It's got a stairstep to it, a very long, gradual stairstep.

**Q.** I think that's the one you showed us the first time.

**The President.** Yeah, it was.

**Q.** You said there were seven?

**The President.** Seven, yes.

**Q.** How many different properties did you look at before buying this one, or was this love at first sight?

**The President.** Well, this was—it was for me, actually. We had seen some—we had seen a lot of property in Texas, you know. And a guy said, you know, we ought to look in this area of Texas. He had bought a ranch in Gatesville, which is right up the road. And we went and looked at his place, and he said, “Oh, by the way, you ought to come and see this Engelbrecht ranch.” And we came over here, and I thought it was fabulous.

Laura was a little worried that it would be hard to access the really beautiful parts of the ranch. And I told her I would build the roads necessary to make sure all of us could get down there easily. And it took a couple of months. And then another buyer came in, and they didn’t honor the deal.

There’s the house. See how it sits in those trees? The guy did a fabulous job of—and it’s facing south so it picks up a lot of the southerly breeze. I’ll take you—

**Q.** This is manmade, this lake?

**The President.** Yes, I made it. I paid for it. Obviously, with no rain, it evaporates. And we’ve had some good rains. There are pumps over there. We keep it pumped because when it does rain, it fills up that little island, and we don’t want to kill those oaks.

But it’s stocked. I bought a little bass boat. It’s stocked—

**Q.** Very little.

**The President.** It is. It’s perfect for that size lake.

It’s stocked with a lot of bait fish, and I put in 600 fingerlings. So we started—didn’t put any big bass in to begin with. And I’ve caught nearly a pound in size.

This will give you a sense for the place. The place on the left there is the guesthouse, bedrooms, sitting room. And then on the right, you can see, it’s kind of sectioned. And in between—there’s three sections, and in between each section there is what they call a dogtrot, which is a screened-in porch built to capture the southerly breezes. And the porch you see out there, we sit out there in the evening—as you can see, the chairs lined up there, looking east, so the sun is not in our eyes. And there is a beautiful fireplace there that we use in the winter.

This is the—right here is an old hand house that we’ve refurbished. And now one half of it is a gymnasium, free weights and exercise machines, and the other half is a room.

**Q.** I’ve got to ask, do you drive from there to there to work out, or do you walk?

**The President.** Actually, I walked yesterday when I went to lift weights, but I’ve got a little golf cart.

This is the Secret Service. They’re building this. And the doublewide will leave. This is their command post. And they were kind enough to ask, you know, whether or not—you know, what kind of design would be helpful to make it blend in. We helped, obviously, put it in that mott of oaks so it doesn’t stand out too much.

We own over to that fence line there. So we go from here about a mile that way, and from here about a half mile that way, maybe a little more. And then that’s our western fence line.

**Q.** Was that your white pickup truck outside the house?

**The President.** No. That is Kenneth Engelbrecht’s, which I use.

**Q.** The Secret Service is not nervous about you driving?

**The President.** I haven’t hit anything yet. But this is the one place I drive.

I built this little pond over here. Actually, it’s got more water than it looks. And that’s a fun—fun little place to go fly-fish. One of my favorite things to do is when it cools—it never cools off—when the sun starts going down, I walk the dogs over there, and they’ll play around in the water.

We planted all these oaks along here, and this is going to be spectacular, as you can see, the walkway.

I don’t think we’ll be able to get around. By the way, one of Laura’s projects is going to interest you. This is buffalo grass, which is the native grass. And she’s planted buffalo grass here, and we’re trying to restore—starting with the land between the house and the lake, including front and back yard—restore all this country to its native—native grasses. And one of the A&M guys was an expert on native grass, as well. And we’ve got a man out here from the local area that is a

wildflower and native grass expert. The dam has got native grass on it.

And the idea is to have these grasses that will be able to sustain themselves, particularly in the hot—in the heat, all around, particularly the house and as far as you can see around the house. They are not good for, you know, cattle necessarily, although they could be.

**Q.** Otherwise, do you have a sprinkler system?

**The President.** We do have a sprinkler system. The roof drains off into a gravel—see the gravel in front of the guesthouse there? That's a gravel collector that drains into a cistern. And we water the trees and the yard.

Obviously, if there's no rain, like we've had recently, then we are on city water, and we water at night. We're not using much water now because the grass has pretty well taken hold.

The guy laid this house in these oaks and did, we think, a beautiful job of placing it in the landscape. There's native rock on the house. It's a pretty good-size house.

**Q.** It's modest size.

**The President.** Yes. It's modest, but it's pretty good size. I mean, the tall ceilings—you can't see how tall the ceilings are, because the perspective is different because of how it sits in the trees, but it's perfect for us.

And you see straight ahead is the screened-in porch there. And then the darker windows there, those are screened-in porches, as well. And the girls' two bedrooms are on this end. Laura and I are in the middle. And what we call the great room, which is a combination sitting room and dining room, is right there.

**Q.** On the end, by where the Adirondack chairs are on the porch?

**The President.** Right. And then this is the guesthouse and the garage.

**Q.** Do you expect Putin to stay in this guesthouse?

**The President.** I don't know what we are going to do. We haven't figured that out yet. It's going to be—

**Q.** It's pretty close, if you're right there.

**The President.** I would love Putin to stay there. He can go down to the Governor's house. I don't know what we're going to do.

You can imagine, it's going to be a mass scramble of who gets to stay on the property and where everybody else will stay. We haven't figured out the logistics. We're still working on the Mexican state dinner. [Laughter]

[The tour continued.]

**Q.** You mean you're going to sneak out to Ohio without telling us?

### **United Nations Conference on Racism**

**The President.** Your question didn't get much news yesterday, on the—or did it—on the conference?

**Q.** Did you expect it to?

**The President.** No, not really.

**Q.** They took notice in New York and overseas.

**The President.** Did they? Good. What did they say?

**Q.** You saw the U.N. human rights woman, Robinson—

**Q.** Yes, she said again she'd go.

**The President.** Well, she ought to clean up the language. It's discriminatory, it seems like to us. And—yes, maybe they will.

### **Ranch Tour**

**Q.** So this is environmentally friendly?

**The President.** Yes, very much so, for a couple of reasons. One, it's got a natural water collection devices all around it, and it's got a heater and cooling system that takes water and circulates it and transfers the cold water to the heat and the heated water to the cold, because the ground temperature—the subterranean temperature stays constant.

So it's the same type of system that Vice President Gore put in the Vice Presidential house, which I didn't realize, but he did.

**Q.** Those aren't solar panels on the roof, it just looks—

**The President.** No, no, no, no. No, those aren't solar panels. That technology isn't quite worked out.

But even more efficient, however, is the transference of heat and cool as a result of circulating water below the—it's called thermal heating and cooling—okay.

Thank you all for coming. We'll see you.

**Q.** Thank you. Thank you so much.



**The President.** Thank you for coming. I'm glad you're here. David "Action" Jackson, thanks.

Okay, we'll see you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:05 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to ranch foreman Kenneth Engelbrecht; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Fernando de la Rúa of Argentina; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; State Representative Dianne White Delisi of Texas; and Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### Remarks at a Steelworkers Picnic in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

August 26, 2001

**The President.** Thank you all very much. Governor, you don't look a day over 60. [Laughter]

I appreciate my friend Tom Ridge. I really care for him a lot. He's a really decent man, and I know the people of Pennsylvania are going to miss him when he retires from the Governor's office. He's done a good job—a good, even-handed fellow who, like me, married really well. [Laughter]

I'm thrilled that my wife has traveled with me today. We came up from Crawford, Texas. I was wondering what that wet stuff coming out of the air was for a while. [Laughter]

But I can't tell you how proud I am of Laura. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. [Applause] There's always one in every crowd. [Laughter] But like that public school librarian, she not only loves books; she loves children. And one of the things she is going to work with me on is to make sure that every child—I mean every child—in America gets a first-rate education by starting with making sure every child in America learns to read.

Thank you for coming, Laura.

We both grew up in Midland, Texas. She remembers me—I think she remembers me as a Little League baseball player, so she is somewhat in shock over the fact that I'll be inducted into the Little League Hall of Fame this evening. [Laughter]

It's an honor to be here in Pennsylvania. I'm proud that two of my Cabinet officials are here. My long-time friend from Texas Don Evans—one thing about old Don, and even Leo will admit this, he'll answer the phone call from the people who work in the steel industry. When you call, he'll be on the other end of the line.

**Audience member.** [Inaudible]

**The President.** Come on.

And Elaine Chao, I'm proud of her representing the working people of America in my Cabinet. She's smart; she's capable; and she brings a lot of dignity to her office, as well. Thank you for being here, Elaine.

I've enjoyed working with Senator Santorum and Melissa Hart and Bob Ney from Ohio. Every time I see them, they say, "Steel—Mr. President, you must understand steel and its woes." You've got three great advocates for the steel industry and its workers in those three elected officials who took time out of their day to be here. Congress is on vacation; the country has never run better. [Laughter] But I appreciate them coming over to say hello.

I want to thank Tom Usher and congratulate the folks at U.S. Steel for 100 years of productivity for America. I want to thank Leo. I was sitting there watching during the speeches. Leo was sitting there working the Secretary of Commerce the whole time. [Laughter] He never misses a moment to say what's on his mind, and I appreciate a straightforward fellow, a fellow who you know where he stands.

And I was asking the folks at the table I was at, "How is Leo doing?" They said, "We like him. He represents us well." And I appreciate your service, Leo, and we look forward to working with you to do what's right for the steelworkers and the steel industry of America.

I got to say something about Ross. Where are you, Ross? There he is. He's my table host. Ross made sure I got through the line in a record time, 45 minutes. [Laughter] It's not that he stopped and ate every dish along the way, but he was gracious in letting me say hello to as many people as I could.

I love people, and I love the American citizens. It doesn't matter whether you're Republican, Democrat—don't care about political parties. I love representing this great country because it's a people full of good and decent, honorable folks.

Ross told me he's been in power for 30 years. Tell me how you do it, Ross. It's not because of your looks. [*Laughter*]

Well, at any rate, thank you all for coming. I have been on what they call a working vacation. I've been at our place in Crawford, Texas, and then I've been traveling out of the place to go to what I call a heartland tour, which is really a way for me to herald the great values of our country.

See, Washington passes laws, but it doesn't pass values legislation. Values exist in the hearts and souls of our citizens. And I am here to trumpet one of the great values of America. That's the enterprise of the American worker, the hard-working American citizens who make this economy go. And those are the steelworkers of America. I appreciate what you do for our country.

I've had the honor of traveling the world. We're the envy of the world in many ways, and one reason why is because of our work ethic. People work hard in America, and they're not afraid to do so. And one of the reasons we're as strong as we are is because of the productivity based upon the hard-working American citizen. And I appreciate you for your work.

There's another value I herald when I travel the country, and that's the value of family. I want to thank all the families who are here, the moms and dads who have brought their children out. I love the American family. And I understand how important family is to our country. I like to remind our fellow citizens, if you're a mom or a dad, the most important job you'll ever have is not going to take place inside this building; the most important job you'll ever have is to tell your children you love them with all your heart and show them you love them with all your mind and all your soul.

We're a great land because of the values we hold dear. And there's another reason to get outside of Washington, because there's a lot of common sense outside of the Nation's Capital. And it makes common sense to be

secure. One of my jobs as the Commander in Chief is to make sure our defenses are strong, and the Nation is secure. It's common sense to make sure that we have an energy policy that becomes less reliant upon foreign sources of energy. I want to appreciate and thank the U.S. Steel and its workers for a good conservation policy. That's part of a good energy policy. But the other part is to make sure we've got ample coal and natural gas, found right here in our own hemisphere, to fuel our own plants so our workers can have jobs, and we can have good product for the American people.

It also makes sense not to be reliant—if you're the Commander in Chief, it makes sense, common sense, not to be heavily reliant upon materials such as steel. If you're worried about the security of the country and you become over-reliant upon foreign sources of steel, it can easily affect the capacity of our military to be well supplied. Steel is an important job issue; it's also an important national security issue. And that is why we took the actions we took in this administration.

I'm upbeat, and my spirits are high. But I must confess I'm worried about the fact that our manufacturing sector in our economy is a lot slower than I would hope. As a matter of fact, our economy has grown at a paltry one percent for the last 12 months, and that worries me. It worries me, first and foremost, for the effect that's going to have on the families all across America. I worry about—I worry about our citizens who work. And we're taking action.

We're paying down record amounts of debt to ease the pressure on interest rates. We've got a trade policy that's going to have a level playing field as its component. And the other thing we've done at the administrative level is we sent money back to the people who pay the bills in America.

We said that there's obviously a role for the Federal Government, and let's fund our priorities. Educating our children is a priority; national defense is a priority; helping people who cannot help themselves is a priority. But folks, when the economy slows down, it's time to understand how to get it started again. And one way to help is to give people their own money back.

You see, there's a big debate in Washington about the money in Washington. Sometimes, folks up there lose sight about whose money it is. That money is not the Government's money; it's the people's money. And we did the right thing with sharing that money with the people who pay the bills.

We've taken action. As you can see, this is an administration that, when we see a problem, we move. We don't stick our finger in the air trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing. I don't need a poll or focus group to tell me what to think. I do what I think is right for the American people. And we'll just let the political chips fall where they may. And the right thing to do was to cut the taxes.

But really, the right thing for me to do is to travel our land, come to places like the Mon Valley, and thank you all very much for what you do; thank you for your hard work; thank you for loving your families; thank you for helping a neighbor in need; thank you from the bottom of my heart for walking across the street when you see somebody in your neighborhood who needs a helping hand; thank you for going to your places of worship and rallying the good faith and good charity inherent in programs all aimed at helping somebody help themselves.

Now, this is a great land. It's a great land because we're blessed with the greatest people on the face of the Earth. It's my honor to be amongst such people today.

Thank you for having me. May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. at the Irvin Plant facility of U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania; Leo W. Gerard, international president, and Ross McLellan, Local 2227 president, United Steelworkers of America; and Thomas J. Usher, chairman and chief executive officer, USX Corp.

## **Remarks on Induction Into the Little League Hall of Excellence in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania**

*August 26, 2001*

Steve, thank you very much. You know, years ago, when I was playing on those dusty Little League fields in west Texas, I never dreamt I would be President of the United States. And I can assure you I never dreamt I would be admitted into the Little League Hall of Excellence. It's a high honor to be here. It's a high honor for Laura and me to be here. I want to thank you so very much for your hospitality.

One of the things I did dream about, though, was making it to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the Little League World Series. And to all the teams that got here, I want to offer my heartiest congratulations. I particularly want to welcome the Japanese team and wish you all the best. Welcome to America.

I must confess, I have a soft spot in my heart for the Florida team. I know and like your Governor. *[Laughter]*

But to all the teams that were here, congratulations.

A couple of words I want to say: First, I want to say thanks to all the moms and dads who participate in Little League all around the world. Little League is a family sport. I can remember my mother sitting behind the—behind the backstop in Midland, Texas, telling me what to do. *[Laughter]* She's still telling me what to do. And my advice to all the players is, listen to your mother. *[Laughter]*

But for all the moms and dads who take special time out of their lives to make sure their kids are able to play the great sport of baseball, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You prioritize your family, and that's crucial for a healthy world, to make sure our families remain strong. I equate Little League Baseball with good families.

I want to thank all the coaches for working with the kids. You're not only teaching the

kids how to throw and hit; you're teaching them incredibly important values, the values of good, clean competition, the values of teamwork, the values of working with somebody to win for something greater than yourself.

It's an honor to receive this award from such a fabulous organization as Little League Baseball and, on behalf of the Presidency, thank you for what you do.

May God bless the teams who play here, may God bless the families represented here, and may God bless the great United States of America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:35 p.m. at Howard J. Lamade Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer, Little League Baseball, Inc.; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus**

*August 27, 2001*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period from June 1 through July 31, 2001. The previous submission covered from April 1 through May 31, 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to resume the proximity talks that started in December 1999. During the reporting period, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler continued to provide diplomatic support to this process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was re-

leased by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29.

### **Remarks at the American Legion Convention in San Antonio, Texas**

*August 29, 2001*

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's my honor to welcome you to my home State. We need the rain, so I appreciate you bringing it from all around the country. I want you to know, you're in a military town. The people of this city are always proud to honor those who serve and those who wear the uniform today.

Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality. I know on behalf of all the folks who have come to this convention, they thank you and your able staff, the good folks of San Antonio, for being such great hosts to this wonderful convention.

It's an honor for San Antonio to host you. And it's a high honor for me to stand before my fellow Legionnaires as the Commander in Chief of the United States Military. And it was a higher honor to escort to this podium the Legion Auxiliary's Woman of the Year. You couldn't have made a finer choice.

I want to thank Ray Smith, the national commander, for giving me a chance to come. And I want to thank him for his service. I want to thank Kristine West for her service, as well. I want to thank Bob Spanogle, the national adjutant. I want to thank the man who runs your Washington, DC, office, John Sommer, for working so closely with my administration. I want to welcome members of my Cabinet who are here, Tony Principi, Elaine Chao. And I understand that Henry Bonilla, the Congressman from this area, is here, and I want to say hello to Henry and his wife, Deborah.

And finally, I want to introduce you all, if you haven't met him yet, to a fine man who's making a great Governor for Texas, my friend, the 47th Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry. Rick, you need to know, we've just come in from Crawford, Texas, and a lot of folks down there can't wait to vote for you.

The American Legion was chartered in the years after World War I, just about the time

that Dwight Eisenhower was a junior officer, living right here in San Antonio, Texas, at Fort Sam. You've seen wars and their aftermath. You've received millions into your ranks. You've seen our culture change for better and sometimes for worse.

And yet, from that founding day in 1919, to this very day, the American Legion has never compromised its principles. As General Douglas MacArthur said at your 1951 convention, "The American Legion has been invincibly faithful to God and to country." Those of us honored to serve in high office have commitments of our own to our Nation's veterans.

I made my own commitments last year, when we met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Those commitments are now becoming policies. And the needs of our veterans are once again priorities of our Government.

If you've worn the uniform, you know just how efficiently Government can sometimes work. When Government needed your services, it moved pretty fast. There weren't many delays, and that's exactly how Government ought to operate in repaying you for your service, in giving you the benefits you earned. Some of you are among the thousands of veterans whose claims have been delayed or, sadly enough, lost in the bureaucracy.

At my direction, the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun to change the way it does business. And I put a good man in charge, my friend and your friend, Tony Principi. Tony is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the VA claims processing.

Reform has begun, and we're starting where the need is greatest. At present, there are more than 600,000 pending applications. A full 53,000 of them have been pending for more than a year. And many were filed by veterans over the age of 70. Think about that: Here are thousands of men who served their country in Korea and World War II, or both. The last thing they need to hear from any Federal office are more routine excuses. That's wrong, and this administration is going to get it right.

Under Secretary Principi, these claims are being given the highest priority. They will be brought to a fair resolution without excuses and without delay. I've also set the goal

of improving cooperation between the VA and the Pentagon in providing care to those who served. By Executive order, I have created a task force to recommend major reforms in the delivery of health care to veterans and military retirees.

Two distinguished Americans will lead the task force, Dr. Gail Wilensky, one of the Nation's leading authorities on health policy, and former Congressman Gerry Solomon, a long-time veteran's advocate, who served our Nation as a marine in the Korean conflict. I'm pleased to announce that Bob Spanogle of the American Legion has agreed and will serve on this task force to represent the American Legion.

My administration is also serious about implementing the Veteran's Millennium Health Care Act, to ensure high-quality care. In my first budget, I asked Congress for an additional \$1 billion for veteran benefits and services. And Secretary Principi recently announced six new centers for Parkinson's disease research and care and 41 new outpatient clinics in 28 States. All the better to serve our Nation's veterans.

In the budget I submitted, veterans are a priority. My budgets will also discharge in full the most basic responsibility for the President, to provide for the security of the United States. In that responsibility, a President needs capable partners, and I have chosen well. I receive outstanding policy advice from Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State Colin Powell. I'm so pleased that Don Rumsfeld is back for a second tour at the Pentagon. And the Nation has never had a finer Vice President than Dick Cheney. Well, maybe it's a tie.

Last week in Crawford, I had the honor of selecting a new Chairman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to replace a good and honorable man who served our Nation well, and that's General Hugh Shelton. I picked a native of Kansas City, Missouri, Air Force General Richard Myers, and as Vice Chairman, I picked the first marine ever, Pete Pace. I have assured both men and every man and woman serving today that the services will receive the support and means they need to operate.

I recently signed a bill allocating over \$2 billion in supplemental appropriations for

military pay, benefits, and health care. In order to boost the morale of our military, it starts with taking care of our people.

But there's more. This budget I submitted to Congress makes national defense a priority. I've asked Congress to provide the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the President and Commander in Chief of the United States.

And to meet any dangers, our administration will begin building the military of the future. We must and we will make major investments in research and development. And we are committed to defending America and our allies against ballistic missile attacks, against weapons of mass destruction held by rogue leaders in rogue nations that hate America, hate our values, and hate what we stand for.

We have a clear eye on foreign policy. We recognize it's a dangerous world. I know this Nation still has enemies, and we cannot expect them to be idle. And that's why security is my first responsibility. And I will not permit any course that leaves America undefended.

In all of these efforts, I hope to have the support of the good people in this room. The American Legion is one of the most respected institutions in our Nation and one of the most familiar. After all, on the main streets all across America, the Legion hall itself is a center of civic life, a place where speeches, sometimes too long—[laughter]—are heard; it's where the Scout troops meet; it's where special events are celebrated.

I recently had the honor of welcoming the leaders of tomorrow, those of Boys and Girls Nation, to the White House. And I applaud you for your efforts at promoting character in our young. And I also can't thank you enough for promoting baseball as the American pastime.

With nearly 15,000 posts and close to 3 million members, the Legion helps make America better every single day. You're recognized not merely as an organization of interests but, as importantly, an organization of values. You represent an ethic of service. When you teach the values of honor and patriotism and personal responsibility, you teach by example. And when you speak of the American flag and the legal protection

it deserves, you speak with authority. And you are right.

You may have heard recently, this past month I've been outside of Washington. I set up a Western White House, right up the road in Crawford, Texas. But I've been spending a lot of time traveling the heartland of America. And I'll do more traveling this fall, speaking about my agenda and the values behind it.

I plan to speak about the values of service and good citizenship that sustains our country. That's where the greatness of America shines through, not in the halls of Government but in the character of our citizens.

One of the important goals of my administration is to invigorate the spirit and involvement of our citizens, to make sure no one is left out of the great American Dream. I've created an Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the White House. And I'm asking Congress to join me in my efforts.

It's time to bring new support and new resources to institutions that help people in need. When people of faith provide social services and the love that is needed, Government must welcome them with open arms and not discriminate faith-based programs in America.

Oh, there's a lot we've got to get done this fall, and I'm looking forward to getting back to work. In the coming weeks, Congress will be going to what they call a conference committee on a Patients' Bill of Rights. I support a good bill that's already passed the House, one that serves patients first and doctors but one that will not encourage frivolous or junk lawsuits that could conceivably throw people off their health care insurance. I'm hopeful they'll move quickly and get a good bill on my desk.

On Medicare, I've laid out commonsense principles for strengthening the program, including overdue—long-overdue coverage for prescription drugs in Medicare.

As parents, grandparents, concerned citizens, all of you are concerned about the quality of our public schools, and I appreciate your involvement. We want the best for our children, and no question it begins with making sure every child is educated and making sure our public schools not only teach how to read and write and add and subtract but

teach our children the values that have been sustained over a long period of time, the values necessary to become good citizens.

There's a bill that passed the House; there's a bill that passed the Senate. When they get back, I hope they don't play politics with the education bill. They need to get it to my desk quickly, so I can sign it and reform the public schools all across America.

And of course the Members will be coming back to consider the pieces of legislation as well as to make necessary spending decisions. So far this year, the signs have been pretty good about how they're going to spend your money. We got a bipartisan budget passed. That's an important guideline as how best to spend taxpayers' money.

In record time, as well, Congress passed, I signed, and the mailman is now delivering the largest tax cut in a generation. Our economy began slowing down last year, and that's bad news. And I'm deeply worried about the working families all across the country. According to today's GDP figures, the recovery is very slow in coming. But with the tax reduction already in place, Americans will have more of their own money to spend, to save and invest, the very things that make our economy grow. Tax relief is exactly the right time—thing, the right prescription at the right time for the American economy.

Now, there are some who are second-guessing tax relief. You hear the voices beginning to filter out of their home States. I presume those who now oppose tax relief are for raising your taxes. That would tie an anchor on our economy, and I can assure you I won't allow it.

In the next few weeks, Congress will face some critical choices and some old temptations. I'm asking them to let go of some of the old ways of doing business in Washington, DC. Most of you have been around long enough to know how the process works. Often the important things are put off to the last, and in the meantime, lots of new spending gets thrown in. Near the end of the process, suddenly we hear that Congress is about to go over the budget, so the items that have been saved for last are the ones most likely to get cut.

And guess which—guess what usually has been saved for the last? The defense bill, leaving our national security at the mercy of budget games and last-minute cuts. This year, we might even see our administration's two highest priorities, education and national defense, being played off against each other.

That's the old way of doing business, and it's time to stop it. We may have different agendas in Washington, but we all have the same basic obligations. We must start with the things that matter most to the future and security of our country. This time, and from this time forward, let us put education and national defense at the first of the line, not at the last.

I return to Washington tomorrow, ready to make my case and ready to work with folks on both sides of the aisle. Dick Cheney and I didn't seek our offices so we could just settle in and mark time. We didn't come to rubber stamp the status quo. We came to challenge old assumptions and to provide new directions. We came to get something done for the country and to change the tone in our national discourse.

I'm proud of the progress we have been making, yet there's a lot to do. And I realize the American people are counting on us. You have given me a perfect sendoff. I leave honored by your support and grateful for your service to our great land.

Thank you all very much. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Edward D. Garza of San Antonio; Ray G. Smith, national commander, Bob Spanogle, national adjutant, and John F. Sommer, executive director, Washington office, the American Legion; Kristine West, national president, the American Legion Auxiliary; and Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. He also referred to the American Legion Auxiliary's Woman of the Year award, which was awarded to First Lady Laura Bush; Executive Order 13214, President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, published in the *Federal Register* on May 31; and Public Law No. 106–117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, approved November 30, 1999.

# **Remarks at the Dedication of the Mission San Jose Grist Mill in San Antonio**

*August 29, 2001*

Thank you very much. *Sientese*. Looks like the Federal drought relief program is working. [*Laughter*] It's wonderful to be here in San Antonio. I want to thank Boo and Nancy for inviting Laura and me to come down for this event. I want the people of the country to be able to get a sense for the majesty and history and tradition of one of the Nation's greatest cities, and that's San Antonio, Texas. We're honored to be here to celebrate the opening of the grist mill at the Mission San Jose.

Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality. I appreciate you riding over from the convention center in the limousine, bringing me up to date on the good works that the people of San Antonio. I'm impressed, and obviously the voters of San Antonio were impressed, too, when they elected this young leader to a high office.

I'm honored to be traveling today with the National Parks Director, Fran Mainella, who I promoted—I pulled her out of the clutches of the Governor of Florida. [*Laughter*] She's going to do a fabulous job for the parks system in America. She's a great leader. I don't know if you've had a chance to meet Fran yet, but Fran, why don't you stand up. [*Applause*]

Steve Whitesell is—represents thousands of hard-working Government employees, who work hard to make our Park System the best in the world. Steve's assigned here in San Antonio. Fran tells me he's doing a heck of a good job. If she says he's doing a good job, that's good enough for me. But Steve, I want to thank you, and on behalf of the—literally hundreds of people that work hard to make our Park System accessible and available for all Americans, thanks for what you do.

Archbishop Flores, it's great to see you, sir. Thank you very much. Again, the Loeflers and the Haussers and all of you who are involved with this worthwhile project, I appreciate very much the chance to come and herald a couple of points.

One is that historic preservation is an important part of government, because it heralds our national heritage. It's important for people to know where we've come from, to understand where we're going. In order to understand Texas and San Antonio, it's important to understand the missions and the role they played in our State's history.

The missions not only were outposts of religion, which is an incredibly important part of our country; they were also the outposts of aid and comfort and help, which must always be a part of the fabric of America. I just went to the American Legion. I reminded people that the greatness of America is not in the halls of Government; it's in the hearts of our citizens. We're a compassionate Nation because we're compassionate people. And to me, the church and the mission represents that compassion. And we must preserve that which is a part of our national heritage. And so I want to thank the citizens of San Antonio for doing just that.

And the second thing to herald here today is the private-public partnership that exists with Los Compadres, who have raised over \$2.5 million to provide support for the Park System here in San Antonio, to preserve the unique legacy of the missions and what they meant to the people from all walks of life. And so I want to thank the good folks. Fran tells me that what she is attempting to do is to rally what they call friends groups, groups such as Los Compadres, all across the country, to say to people that have got a stake in the National Park System in their neighborhood, do something about it. Follow the example of Los Compadres. Raise money to support the good people that are working to make the Park System the best it can possibly be.

So Laura and I are here to thank the citizens who understand the value of our heritage, understand the value of the mission system in San Antonio, and thank you for your generosity and vision and good work, not only on behalf of the people of Texas but on behalf of the millions of visitors who come to Texas, to be able to understand what our State has been all about.

And finally, it's important to be here because it's important for America to know the American story has been written and spoken



in different languages. That the unique thing about America is our ability to welcome people from different backgrounds into our Nation and to be able to assimilate around common values, values of family and faith, values of community and hard work. That's what America's really all about.

I'm getting ready to meet with Vicente Fox for my first state dinner next week. As you know, we've been in Crawford, Texas, on what they call a working vacation. [Laughter] Part of our working vacation has been to travel the Nation to talk about the values of the heartland. And one of the values of the heartland is family and faith and the willingness of people to help each other in need. And those values aren't just a part of one ethnic group in America. They're a part of every ethnic group in our country. And I can't wait to share my enthusiasm about our neighbors and our relations with Mexico with Vicente Fox. And these missions remind me about the important role that Mexico has played in the history, not only of Texas but our Nation.

And like the values of neighborliness, those values must extend beyond the Rio Bravo as well. It's important to be neighbor—friendly neighbors with people across the street. It's important to help a neighbor in need in America. But it's also important to live—understand we live in an international neighborhood. And Mexico is our neighbor, and we want Mexico to prosper. We want our neighbor to do well.

If you're in a neighborhood, don't you want all the neighborhoods—the neighbors to be successful? I do. And we want Mexico to be a successful country. And so we're—as we say in Texas, we're pulling for President Fox to succeed. We want the marketplace to take hold. We want people to find work close to home. But we understand that if you can make a living in America and you can't find a job in Mexico, family values don't stop at the southern border. People who share a desire to provide for their families, that exists all across the country and in our hemisphere. And so people are coming to work to provide food for their families. And that's why we want Mexico to succeed. It's in our national interest. It's in our national

interest that relations are strong with our neighbor. Those are values that are important, not only at home but internationally. And so I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm about our relationship with our neighbor to our south.

These missions remind me of the visit this coming week. It's an important visit, because good foreign policy starts in your own neighborhood. And I'm pleased to report, we've got good foreign policy with our neighbor to the south. We've never had a better relationship, and we'll continue to work to make sure our relationship with our friends from Mexico are as strong as possible.

And the reason why it's important to preserve heritage is because it reminds us of the close link we've had with Mexico and the Hispanic culture for a long period of time. America is richer as a result of that culture.

I want to thank you all for giving us a chance to come. I'm looking forward to breaking the proverbial ribbon on the old grist mill. [Laughter] Again, I want to thank the Loefflers. I want to thank Boo. And I want to thank all the good citizens. "Thank you, Mr. President, for our tax refund." [Laughter] Thank you for holding that sign. [Laughter] If you're looking for something to do with your refund, you got a little extra money, give it to Los Compadres.

We're sure glad to be back in Texas. Our batteries are charged, and Laura and I are looking forward to going back to work tomorrow, to the Nation's Capital. But even though we've changed addresses, Texas will always be home.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in front of Mission San Jose. In his remarks, he referred to Albert F. "Boo" Hausser, chairman, Los Compadres, and his wife, Meta; former Representative Tom Loeffler and his wife, Nancy; Mayor Edward D. Garza of San Antonio; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Stephen F. Whitesell, superintendent, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park; Archbishop Patrick F. Flores, Archdiocese of San Antonio; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

**Remarks on the Last Flight of  
Air Force One Tail Number 27000  
in Waco, Texas**

*August 29, 2001*

Any Air Force plane carrying the President bears the name Air Force One. This plane, tail number 27000, wore the name of Air Force One for 444 missions and more than 1 million miles. Today this plane carried a President for the last time, and soon it will be taking its last flight. It will carry no more Presidents, but it will carry forever the spirit of American democracy.

Tail number 27000 entered the service of the United States in December 1972 and first served President Richard Nixon and then President Ford. It flew former President Carter and former President—Vice President Mondale to Germany to greet 52 Americans who had been held hostage in Iran. My father flew it frequently, but the President who used it the most was Ronald Reagan. It was from this plane that President Reagan disembarked in Berlin in 1987 and demanded, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.”

And none of those flights would have been possible without the skill and commitment of the air crews of old 27000. For almost three decades, the pilot and crew of tail number 27000 have performed flawlessly, for not only Presidents but Vice Presidents and Cabinet Secretaries and Members of Congress. I’m delighted that former crew members can be with us today.

Ralph Albertazzie, President Nixon’s pilot, is here; Colonel Bob Ruddick, the pilot for President Ronald Reagan; Danny Barr, who flew my dad; Chief Master Sergeant Joe Chappell, he was the chief flight engineer who rode the plane on its original voyage from the Boeing factory to Andrews Air Force Base; Chief Master Sergeant Charles Palmer; Chief Master Sergeant Denny Stump; Chief Master Sergeant Kim Johnson; Chief Master Sergeant Tim Kerwin; Chief Master Sergeant John Haigh; and of course, the man who flies me, Colonel Mark Tillman.

Between you, you have served seven Presidents, and you have served your Nation well. Thanks to you, American history has been a little less turbulent than it might have been.

Tail number 27000 flew two Presidents back home from Washington to California; it carried Richard Nixon in 1974 and Ronald Reagan in 1989. And today it will follow its distinguished passengers to its own retirement in California. A new hangar will be built for 27000 at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California. Visitors will soon be able to tour this aircraft. It will remind us of Ronald Reagan’s achievements for peace and international security and permanently symbolize the soaring spirit of this great man and our great country. Soon it will take its final flight westward into history.

Thank you all for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. at Texas State Technical College Waco. In his remarks, he referred to former General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Proclamation 7459—National  
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month,  
2001**

*August 30, 2001*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

Ovarian cancer, the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers, is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. Experts predict that more than 23,000 cases will be diagnosed in 2001, with an estimated 13,900 women dying from the disease this year.

Ovarian cancer is very treatable when detected early, but only 25 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in the early stages. The vast majority of cases are not diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries, often because symptoms are easily confused with other diseases and because no reliable, easily administered screening tool exists.

When the disease is diagnosed in advanced stages, the chance of 5-year survival is only about 25 percent. Currently, 50 percent of

women diagnosed with ovarian cancer die from it within 5 years. Among African-American women, only 48 percent survive 5 years or more.

Early detection of this disease remains the best way to save women's lives. Symptoms may include abdominal pressure or bloating, persistent digestive problems, excessive fatigue, and sometimes abnormal bleeding. Women also should be aware that risk factors are higher for those who are over 50 years of age, who have a personal or family history of ovarian, breast, or colon cancer, and who have not borne a child.

National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month serves as an important time to recognize Federally funded research efforts by the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program. Their work has achieved great strides, and my Administration is committed to continuing funding of research that will decrease the high mortality from ovarian cancer and ultimately prevent the disease. At the same time, the medical community and nonprofit groups are working together to create more awareness about the disease and spotlight the need for continued research into prevention, early detection tools, advanced therapies, and possible cures.

During this special observance, I commend the scientists, physicians, and other medical and health professionals who are working to advance knowledge and understanding of ovarian cancer. I also encourage all Americans to learn more about the disease and the importance of early detection. Doing so can save lives and protect the health and well-being of countless women.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:52 a.m., September 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 5.

### **Remarks on Launching the New White House Web Site and an Exchange With Reporters**

*August 31, 2001*

**The President.** Jane, thanks, you did a great job. And thank all the folks who worked on it. I'm very impressed. And I think the people who access this Web site will be impressed, as well.

A couple of points I want to make: One, I appreciate so very much the Web site being available in more than just one language. There are a lot of Spanish-speaking folks in America, and they'll be able to access the Web site. And that's important because I want all Americans to understand that our priorities coming into the fall will be our economy, education, opportunity, and security. And concerned citizens can read about those four categories, those four priorities of the administration, across the Web page.

I was particularly impressed that Barney plays a major role—[laughter]—in helping the young understand what's going on in Washington, DC. I say that somewhat in jest, but I'm very serious about the need for all of us involved in Government to do all we can to involve our citizenry in government. There is a lot of cynicism about politics in Washington, DC, and it seems like to me the more accessible Washington becomes, the more likely it is people will participate in the process.

And clearly, one way to do so is across the Web page. I appreciate so very much, Jane, your artistic talents and your creativity and the team that worked with you, as well. This page will be updated on a regular basis, obviously, as the news unfolds. But we'll be looking for more imaginative ways to continue

peoples' interest in accessing the White House.

Finally, it's good to be here with the First Lady. As we say in Texas, she cut her teeth in libraries, and she, too, is concerned about making sure that information flows freely and that, as importantly, people are able to read what comes up on the screen.

As I said, education, the economy, opportunity, and security will be our priorities. And one of the things that I hope Congress does is work and act quickly on the education bill and get it to my desk as soon as they get back. It's an important piece of legislation. The House has passed a version; the Senate has passed a version. And I know that the leadership has had their teams working to resolve differences over the last couple of weeks. And I'm confident that if the will is there, they can get a bill to me quickly. I look forward to signing one.

I'd be glad to answer a few questions.

#### ***Funding the Legislative Agenda***

**Q.** Sir, you talk about your priorities. Are you confident that the money will be there to fund all those priorities?

**The President.** Yes, I am, so long as Congress doesn't overspend.

Yes, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

#### ***Little League***

**Q.** What is your reaction to this 12- or 14-year-old boy who—it turns out he is 14 years old, the Little Leaguer?

**The President.** Well, my answer is, I'm disappointed that adults would fudge the boy's age. I wasn't disappointed in his fastball and his slider; the guy was awesome. I mean, he's a great pitcher. But I was sorely disappointed that people felt like they could send in a false age—particularly when it comes to Little League baseball, of all places.

And so Little League, I'm sure, will take the appropriate actions.

**Q.** What do you think the appropriate action is?

**The President.** I guess disqualification of the team. I'm sure there are rules at the Little League level. Laura and I went to the Little League World Series. It was an amazing event, by the way. As I told them, I said,

really, when I was a kid, I never dreamt that I would be standing in front of a bunch of Little Leaguers as President, but I did dream about making it to Williamsport as a Little League player.

#### ***Mexico and Immigration Policy***

**Q.** Are you disappointed, sir, that you were unable to come up with more concrete agreement with Mexico on immigration?

**The President.** I'm thrilled at the progress we're making with Mexico. What you'll see is that our administrations, mine and that of Vicente Fox, are cooperating better than any administrations in the past on a wide range of issues. And I'm very pleased with the progress we're making. The immigration issue is one that is a complex issue. We've made progress on principles.

And President Fox knows that the issue will require more than just the administrations' involvement; it requires a willing Congress to address the issue. So we'll be discussing principles, starting with, people need to be treated well and treated respectfully. And then it makes sense for the United States to help match willing—a willing employee with a willing employer. It's in our Nation's interest, that if someone's looking for a worker, that we figure out how to combine the two.

And we made great progress. I was briefed this morning by Colin Powell and John Ashcroft on their meetings with their counterparts in Mexico. I think it's safe to say, without hyperbole, that the interaction between our administrations is the best it's ever been, of any administrations in the past.

#### ***High Speed Internet Access***

**Q.** Mr. President, what role should the Federal Government play in helping deploy high speed Internet access?

**The President.** Helping?

**Q.** Deploy high speed Internet access?

**The President.** Well, a lot of that is going to be taking place through the market. And technology is such that areas that might not get access quickly as a result of no economies of purchase, or economies of scale, will be able to have Internet access.

I think, for example, of Crawford, Texas. It's a place where you're not going to generally get a lot of fiber optics, although I think there may be some there as a result of Laura's and my presence. Hopefully that high speed access will come as a result of—over the air as opposed to through fiber optics. And once we get over-the-air high speed access, then a lot of rural America that heretofore hasn't had access will get it. The technologies are evolving.

One of my concerns, of course, is the economic slowdown will perhaps slow down some of the progress made, as far as high speed access. And we've done something about it. I'm going to remind Congress that they need not overspend and should not overspend. It's going to affect economic growth; that all of us in Washington need to be thinking about how to grow the economy.

And I've laid out an economic growth plan, starting with tax relief. I hear there are some up here that are now second-guessing tax relief, and surely they're not advocating a tax increase, because if they are, they will find mighty resistance in the White House. Plus, that's bad economics. So for those who criticize the tax relief plan, the next step is, what do you have in mind? And if it's a tax increase, that would be bad for America.

Good to see everybody. Thank you. Fournier, we missed you in Crawford.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Executive Office of the President Library in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to White House Webmaster Jane Cook; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

## Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 2001

*August 31, 2001*

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing Labor Day on September 3, 2001.

The great strength of our Nation's economy is our workforce. From teachers and entrepreneurs to factory workers and scientists, hardworking Americans serve in a wide and diverse range of professions that are vital to

protecting our health, well-being, and quality of life. By providing important goods and services and building and generating wealth, American workers help lay the foundation for our continued progress and advancement.

Falling on the first Monday in September, Labor Day serves as a time to honor and celebrate the achievements of our workforce and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring opportunity for every American worker. Workers must have the education and training they need to succeed, and they are entitled to expect fair treatment from their employers. We owe workers the chance to build a nest egg that will help them maintain a high standard of living in their retirement years. The last barriers to full participation in the workplace for Americans with disabilities must be removed. The Office of the 21st Century Work Force at the Department of Labor and my New Freedom Initiative reflect my Administration's commitment to furthering these important goals.

As our Nation observes Labor Day this year, I salute every hardworking American for your role in helping this country to grow and thrive and for your innovation, creativity, and energy on the job. I also encourage you as you strive to keep in balance the demands of work alongside vital responsibilities to family, friends, and the community. Your efforts carry on the proud traditions of past generations of American workers and demonstrate your adaptability and enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Best wishes for a memorable observance.

**George W. Bush**

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **August 26**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to West Mifflin, PA, and in

the afternoon, they traveled to South Williamsport, PA. In the evening, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

#### **August 27**

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen Burton Clarke to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management at the Department of the Interior.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 17–18.

#### **August 28**

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia to Washington for a working visit on October 5.

#### **August 29**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Antonio, TX, and in the afternoon, they traveled to Waco, TX. Later, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the Presidential Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans: Everett Alvarez, Ross Anthony, Terry Clark, Mack Fleming, Susan Hosek, Robert Krasner, Anthony McCann, Arthur Porter, Susan Schwartz, Robert Spanogle, Robert Wallace, Harry Walters, and Josh Weston.

#### **August 30**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rockwell A. Schnabel to be U.S. Representative to the European Union, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roy L. Austin to be Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **August 31**

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Wisconsin and Michigan on Monday, September 3, to participate in Labor Day events.

The White House announced that the President and President Vicente Fox of Mexico will travel together to Toledo, OH, on Thursday, September 6.

The President announced that he will make a recess appointment for Peter J. Hurtgen to stay on as Member and Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) until the President's nominees to the Board are confirmed.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

#### **Released August 27**

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Anna M. Perez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Counselor to the National Security Adviser for Communications at the National Security Council

#### **Released August 28**

Statement by the Press Secretary: Georgian President Shevardnadze to Visit Washington

#### **Released August 31**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.